The Alleghany County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Monday, October 6, 2014, at 6:30pm in the Board Meeting Room of the County Administration Building, 348 South Main Street, Sparta, North Carolina.

Present: Chairman Larry Cox, Vice-Chairman Tom Smith, Commissioner John Goudreau, Commissioner Karen Leys, County Manager Don Adams, and Clerk to the Board Karen Evans. Commissioner Larry Davis and County Attorney Donna Shumate were absent.

Chair Cox called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to approve the agenda for this October 6, 2014, meeting. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

AGENDA Monday, October 6, 2014 6:30 PM

6:30 Meeting Called To Order, Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation Motion on Agenda for October 6, 2014, Meeting Motion on Minutes for September 8 and September 15, 2014, Meetings

6:35 A. <u>April Hamm</u> – Transportation Director

- 1. Present grant information regarding the Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) for 2014/15 in the amount of \$91,899.
- 2. <u>Public Hearing</u> Chairman open public hearing to receive comments regarding the proposed ROAP. Chairman close public hearing after receiving comments.
- 3. Action Requested Vote on the proposed ROAP.
- 4. Section 5310 (ED) Program Discussions about continuing the ED program and potentially scheduling a public hearing for the ED program.
- 5. <u>Open Position</u> Transportation Driver, Grade 54b, \$17,658.50. <u>Action Requested</u> Vote on the request to fill the position.
- B. <u>Rita Miller</u> Tax Administrator and <u>Eddie Mitchum</u> –Wampler-Eanes Appraisals RE: Presentation of the Proposed 2015 Schedule of Values. No action requested.
- C. <u>Linda Hash</u> Administrative Director/Conservationist II RE: Soil and Water District's Annual Report
- D. General Business
 - Alleghany County Agricultural Advisory Board Appointment
 The Agricultural Advisory Board is recommending the appointment of Russell Choate to serve as an ex-officio member to the Board. <u>Action Requested</u> Vote on the recommendation.
 - Wellness Drawing for 2 Carolina Panthers Tickets
 All employees who have participated in any wellness activity are entered into drawing. <u>Action Requested</u> Draw 1 name.
- E. <u>Public Comments—30 minutes</u>
- F. <u>Commissioners Comments</u>
- G. Adjourn

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Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 8 and September 15, 2014, meetings. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

April Hamm, Transportation Director, presented information for the Rural Operating Assistance Program (ROAP) including the allocations of EDTAP \$45,179, Employment \$4,874 and RGP \$41,846. She explained the application is late due to the late passing of the State budget.

Chair Cox opened the public hearing at 6:32 regarding the Rural Operating Assistance Program and asked for public comments. April Hamm said there are voluntary Title VI forms for anyone who would like to complete one and the forms will be submitted with the grant application. No additional comments were received. He closed the public hearing and reconvened the regular meeting.

Commissioner Leys and April Hamm talked about the upcoming public hearing for the RGP rate changes and Mrs. Hamm has a couple of changes that she will bring up at that time plus Mrs. Hamm is comfortable with the EDTAP rate changes.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the ROAP grant application. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

April Hamm talked about the Section 5310 program; ED. She explained that she talked to the Board about this program two years ago regarding the program losing money, required 50% match for operating expenses and required 10% match for capital expenses. She talked about the conversation tonight is about submitting the application or stopping the program on June 30. She reviewed the numbers for the operating portion of the budget; \$41,541 and the required match being \$20,771. She further reviewed the numbers for the capital portion of the budget; \$6,440 and the required match being \$644. She stated that the total match is \$21,415. She explained that previously it has been a 2-year program, but this application will be for 1 year.

Commissioner Smith and April Hamm talked about the ED program is an extension for the EDTAP program since EDTAP is for medical transportation only. She explained that the ED program allows for people to go anywhere in the county for a \$1 for whatever reason. She talked about the program has been in operation for $4\frac{1}{2}$ years, provided almost 10,000 trips to 200 people currently, and over 600 people qualify for the services.

Commissioner Leys and April Hamm talked about the ED van doesn't leave the county.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about the request of \$21,415 isn't in the budget at this time. The County Manager explained conversations from 2 years ago, AIM has an operating budget that isn't part of the General Fund, needed service, could lose up to \$21,000 per year, in 2nd year now of the current program, lost \$16,000 last year and had a \$18,000 fund balance, at the end of this year the fund will be in the negative, that was a choice made 2 years by this Board, this program can be extended 1 year and this is the amount that could be lost in the year starting July 1, 2015. He asked if the Board would like to move forward with the grant by holding a public hearing at the next meeting. He explained what will happen at the end of this year; he will bring back a budget amendment so the 40 fund won't be in the negative. He talked about raising rates this much isn't a possibility. He talked about options before the Board.

Commissioner Leys and County Manager Don Adams talked about this year there will be a deficit of around \$16,000, which will take a budget amendment at the end of the year. The County Manager explained that he wants the Board to go into this understanding there will be a loss of \$15,000-\$20,000.

Commissioner Smith and April Hamm talked about things this money can be used for. She provided examples.

Chair Cox and April Hamm talked about this is only for in-county transportation.

Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Leys talked about proceeding with the public hearing. Chair Cox and Commissioner Goudreau agreed.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to hold a public hearing at the first meeting in November for the ED program. Vote 4:0.

April Hamm explained that she has a vacancy for a full-time driver at a grade 54b, \$17,658.50 and requested permission to fill the position since she had someone to leave.

County Manager Don Adams explained the requirements for drivers. He talked about the standard policy for Alleghany County is to advertise and accept applications, interview then fill the position. He explained that she has a part-time person interested in the full-time job, and they are asking to hire the part-time person to move into this full-time position. He talked about the second request is to allow April Hamm to post internally and then promote within.

Commissioner Smith and April Hamm talked about this person has already left and currently only having 1 full-time driver on staff.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to fill the position and advertise internally. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Rita Miller, Tax Administrator, and Eddie Mitchum, Wampler-Eanes Appraisals, presented the 2015 Schedule of Values for the 2015 valuations, having time to review the Schedule, and the need to set a public hearing then vote on them. She explained that the Schedule is in their office for review.

County Manager Don Adams asked them to review the additional steps.

Rita Miller explained the timeline including trying to get the notices out the first week in January and allowing time for hearings prior to the Board of Equalization and Review.

Eddie Mitchum provided the Schedule of Values to the Commissioners. He talked about it has been a pleasure to work here. He further talked about the Department of Revenue asked to hold off until the end of the year to review the numbers. He explained that this document allows for flexibility and going to be putting the final touches on everything in mid-December.

County Manager Don Adams asked Eddie Mitchum to explain what mass appraisal is. Eddie Mitchum explained they use the County's software system, send people to the field to make sure the data is accurate, take pictures so have up-to-date photographs, then send more experienced people to look at additional information and to look at the sales as they come in to make sure they have it valued correctly.

Commissioner Leys asked Eddie Mitchum to explain the book. Eddie Mitchum reviewed the layout of the book including the tables and descriptions. He explained that the land values are a range of values.

County Manager Don Adams and Eddie Mitchum talked about the County is broken down into neighborhood areas that are alike. They further talked about the values are reviewed in the neighborhoods and in the County. They talked about the 3 approaches to values; costs, sales comparison and income, and they look at all three. Eddie Mitchum explained the Schedule of Values is a modified cost approach and provided examples. They talked about considering all 3 approaches and breaking down the land/structures and using the different methods to put a value on the land. They discussed using mass appraisals to come up with a formula for a cost per acre for the computer system. They further discussed the structure side of things, different types of grades, different types of conditions, types of property. Eddie Mitchum talked about trying to make it as objective as possible, make the document, let the public look at it, then send out the notices, then hopefully people will let them know of things that aren't accurate. They discussed the costs explanation and adding deprecation and land to it.

Chair Cox asked if commercial is the same process. Eddie Mitchum said it is the pretty much the same but they can look at the income part to be considered as well.

Rita Miller stated she is very pleased with the Schedule of Values. She reviewed why and how it is better than in the past. She explained that the County has to schedule a public hearing about the Schedule of Values and according to the NC General Statutes; she would like to schedule the public hearing on November 3 at 6:30pm.

Commissioner Leys made a motion to hold the public hearing on November 3 at 6:30pm for the Schedule of Values. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Rita Miller said if there are any questions she will be glad to answer them.

Chair Cox and Rita Miller talked about a copy of the Schedule of Values is in the Tax Office so the public can review it.

Linda Hash, Administrative Director/Conservationist II, presented Soil and Water's annual report. She reviewed the annual report including their district projects in the amount of \$70,951, NRCS programs in the amount of \$50,944.

Commissioner Smith asked if that is the same amount of money as last year. Linda Hash answered that the State is the same, Federal is a lot less, and she explained why.

Linda Hash presented information on the Voluntary Farmland Preservation Program, No-Till Drill Rentals, District Activities Summary and Educational Summary. She also presented information on their current activities.

Chair Cox and Linda Hash talked about the location of their fall meeting. They talked about the Ag Advisory Board met and selected officers; Brant Banks as the President, Johnny Wishon as the Vice-President and Susie Gambill as the Secretary. He stated his appreciation for these people stepping up to serve in these positions.

Commissioner Leys and Linda Hash talked about the number of contracts in the environmental quality incentive program; 3.

County Manager Don Adams talked about the Alleghany County Agricultural Advisory Board met.

Chair Cox summarized their request of recommending the appointment of Russell Choate to serve as an ex-officio member to the board. He explained that the board thought it was important to have forestry involved on the board.

Commissioner Smith made a motion to approve the appointment of Russell Choate to the Alleghany County Agricultural Advisory Board. Commissioner Leys seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Clerk Karen Evans explained the wellness drawing is for employees who have participated in the wellness program as of September 30. Commissioner Leys drew the name; George Hamm.

Chair Cox opened the floor for public comments. None were received. He closed that portion of the meeting.

Commissioner Leys recognized Alex Wagoner and stated her appreciation for her participation with the NC Association of County Commissioners. She said she appreciates the recent community service worker who worked with the Sparta Revitalization Committee by working throughout the Town cleaning it up. She talked about the Bypass completion is great news and her appreciation to anyone who worked on that.

Being no further business, Commissioner Leys made a motion to adjourn at 7:34pm. Commissioner Goudreau seconded the motion. Vote 4:0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board

Attest:

Larry Cox
Chairman